

Syria: Consign “Barrel Bombs” to the Propaganda Graveyard

By [Vanessa Beeley](#)

Global Research, January 21, 2017

[21st Century Wire](#) 17 January 2017

Theme: [Media Disinformation](#), [Militaryization and WMD](#), [Terrorism](#), [US NATO War](#)

[Agenda](#)

In-depth Report: [SYRIA](#)

“Every time one of these barrels strikes, it is the seismological equivalent of a 7.6 magnitude earthquake, and it happens around 50 times a day. (In Syria) You can’t dial 911. You can’t dial the fire service. You can’t call the local police department. They don’t exist.”
~ James Le Mesurier, British ex-military trainer of the NATO-state, multi-million-dollar-funded [White Helmets](#), based in Gaziantep, Turkey.

In an interview with [CNN in May 2015](#), this is the claim made by British mercenary trainer of the White Helmets to Dr Sanjay Gupta. Again, in June 2015, Le Mesurier made a similar claim to an audience during a speech at [The Performance Theatre, Lisbon](#) entitled very grandly, “Act 1: Witnesses to history in the making”.

On the front page of the fraudulently named [Syria Civil Defence](#) aka the NATO state sponsored, White Helmets, there is the same claim made by the extensively discredited, [Ammar Al Salmo](#), “leader” of the Syria Civil Defence in Aleppo:



“To be able to understand accurately the damage and the threat and the devastation of the disaster in Syria, we are having a 7.6 earthquake 50 times a day”

- Ammar Al-Salmo

Leader of Syria Civil Defence in Aleppo ✪

Al Salmo’s “evidence” was pivotal to the [US alliance claims](#) that, on 21st September 2016, Russian jets had targeted a humanitarian convoy to the west of Aleppo – Urum al Kubra, causing international outcry and almost precipitating a terrifying escalation of the conflict between Russia and the US on Syrian soil. Claims that were universally [debunked](#), as were so many before them. Syricide on Twitter produced a video that demonstrates the grave anomalies in the Al Salmo report, that was used to trigger international outrage against Russia and the Syrian government.

 **Syricide** @Syricide 23 Sep
I am an adult, if you think a Russian rocket created a neat hole and then hid itself among cardboard boxes, it way past your bedtime.
pic.twitter.com/uyBrk4DZm8

 **Syricide** @Syricide [Follow](#)

My interpretation of #WhiteHelmets "manager" #AmmarAlSalmo's on-site report on the #UNConvoy attack in #UrumAlKubra
pic.twitter.com/5FutbITlyw
11:26 AM - 20 Oct 2016



  27  25

In November 2016, Raed Saleh, president of the White Helmets and “humanitarian” poster boy for the international community supporting the terrorist support group, gave an acceptance speech for the [Right Livelihood Award](#). During this [speech](#), Saleh reinforced the barrel bomb/earthquake imagery and increased the magnitude to a whopping 8:0



Acceptance of Right Livelihood Award speech by Raed al Saleh, Director, the White Helmets

Ladies and Gentlemen, esteemed guests, I would like to thank the Right Livelihood Award Foundation and the Vasa Museum for inviting the White Helmets to this beautiful city. My name is Ra'ed al-Saleh. Four years ago I was an electronics salesman in Idlib, Syria. Today I am the Director of a Syrian rescue organisation known as the White Helmets.

The story of the White Helmets begins in March 2013. At the time, the Syrian regime was conducting 50 air strikes a day against civilian targets in Aleppo, including using barrel bombs to destroy marketplaces, small businesses and residential neighbourhoods. Hundreds of people were being killed daily and for those trapped beneath the rubble there was no prospect of being rescued. There was no hope.

I find it difficult to convey to international audiences the scale of this terror: the localised effect of a barrel bomb is the same as an earthquake measuring 8 on the Richter scale. The horrific earthquake last month in Italy measured 6.2 on the Richter scale. So imagine that, 50 times a day.

Here is the segment of the speech in which Saleh presents the barrel bomb case. *Watch ~*

Just after the liberation of East Aleppo by the Syrian Arab Army and allies, BBC Radio 4 interviewed James Le Mesurier who trotted out the usual platitudes regarding his band of “selfless humanitarians”, described, universally as [“Nusra Front civil defence”](#) by Syrian civilians freed from almost five years of Nusra Front-led terrorist and extremist imprisonment, supported by the interventionist alliance of the US, UK, EU, Gulf States, Turkey, Israel, Canada, Jordan & Australia & Co.

This time the BBC, themselves, announce that one *barrel bomb is equivalent to an earthquake of an 8:0 magnitude*, so parroting the White Helmet and NATO-state-aligned NGO narrative without hesitation. [Listen to the interview here.](#)

We have compiled statements by James Le Mesurier into a short video. They include the bare-faced lie, presented to CNN, that in Syria there is no emergency number to call for rescue or fire services, an attempt by this UK regime intelligence operative & [OBE recipient](#), to disappear the [REAL Syria Civil Defence](#), established in 1953: *Watch ~*

Do they have us over a Barrel?

Just a casual check on scientific charts correlating Richter scale magnitude with corresponding amounts of explosives will show that anything above a 7.0 magnitude would require as much as [20 billion kilograms](#) of TNT, or according to other charts as much as [10 megatons](#), something approaching the output of an atom bomb, greater than the one

used against Hiroshima by the US.

21st Century Wire had previously debunked CNN claims, in October 2016, that a White Helmet centre in Damascus had been targeted by a barrel bomb:

[A NOBEL LIE: CNN's Claim That 'White Helmets Center in Damascus' Was Hit by a Barrel Bomb](#)

In August 2015, Ken Roth, director of [Human Rights Watch](#), tweeted that "Assad's barrel bombs" were equivalent to the US nuclear bomb that had destroyed Hiroshima.



[YallaLaBarra's](#) blog addressed Ken Roth's unhealthy obsession with barrel bombs:

"This was the first of a whopping 200 Syria tweets that he has posted about "barrel bombs". These don't include at least an equal number of other anti-government tweets that range from Assad's "use of chemical weapons against his people" to fawning praise of militants in Syria. Between 12 November 2013 and December 2014, Ken Roth tweeted about "barrel bombs" (BB) a total of 65 times. This is no small number, but it pales in comparison to the 135 barrel bomb tweets he posted in 2015 - thus far. During the first 8 months of 2015, the frequency of barrel bomb tweets varied from month to month. For example, after having posted 27 BB tweets in February of 2015, he surprisingly controlled his urges and kept it at under 15 for each of the following 4 months (March -June). In July his obsession got the best of him and he graced us with 28 BB tweets. Things got worse in August with a staggering 40 BB tweets. One of the reasons the BB tweeting became so trigger happy in the last two months is because he is now frantically inserting "barrel bombs" into tweets that are unrelated to the topic."

Now lets consider the earthquake magnitude claim, bearing in mind that, at various stages, members of the NATO-aligned White Helmets and associated NGOs, & corporate media

outlets have stated that as many as 50 of these earthquakes are hitting Syria per day for possibly the last six years.

Here's a look at the 2010 earthquake in [Haiti](#), which struck January 12, 2010. The [earthquake](#) measured a "mere" (by White Helmet standards) 7.0 magnitude:

IMPACT OF THE 12 JANUARY EARTHQUAKE

- 7.0 Magnitude Quake struck near Port au Prince
- 3,500,000 people were affected by the quake
- 220,000 people estimated to have died
- 300,000+ people were injured
- Over 188,383 houses were badly damaged and 105,000 were destroyed by the earthquake (293,383 in total), 1.5m people became homeless
- After the quake there were 19 million cubic metres of rubble and debris in Port au Prince – enough to fill a line of shipping containers stretching end to end from London to Beirut.
- 4,000 schools were damaged or destroyed
- 25% of civil servants in Port au Prince died
- 60% of Government and administrative buildings, 80% of schools in Port-au-Prince and 60% of schools in the South and West Departments were destroyed or damaged

Figures taken from Dec.org reports.

Corporate Media Plays Along

On the 10th January 2017, the [Independent's headline](#) was - "*Assad 'dropped 13,000 barrel bombs on Syria in 2016', watchdog claims*" .

So according to this headline, Syrian president, Bashar Al Assad, personally dropped 13, 000 (equivalent to) atom bombs on his own country and people in 12 months. Even the war-hungry US administration, with its penchant for obliterating entire nations would struggle to match that *accolade*!



The “*watchdog*” that has been cited by The Independent is none other than the [Syrian Network for Human Rights](#), a long term purveyor of the barrel bomb myth and one of the multitude of NGOs affiliated with the anti-Syria-war-propaganda-impresario, [George Soros](#), along with the Ford Foundation & the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Helicopters Carry Two Bombs

James Le Mesurier confirms what independent warfare analysts had previously told me, that a helicopter will carry two *barrel bombs* at at time.

SNHR report:

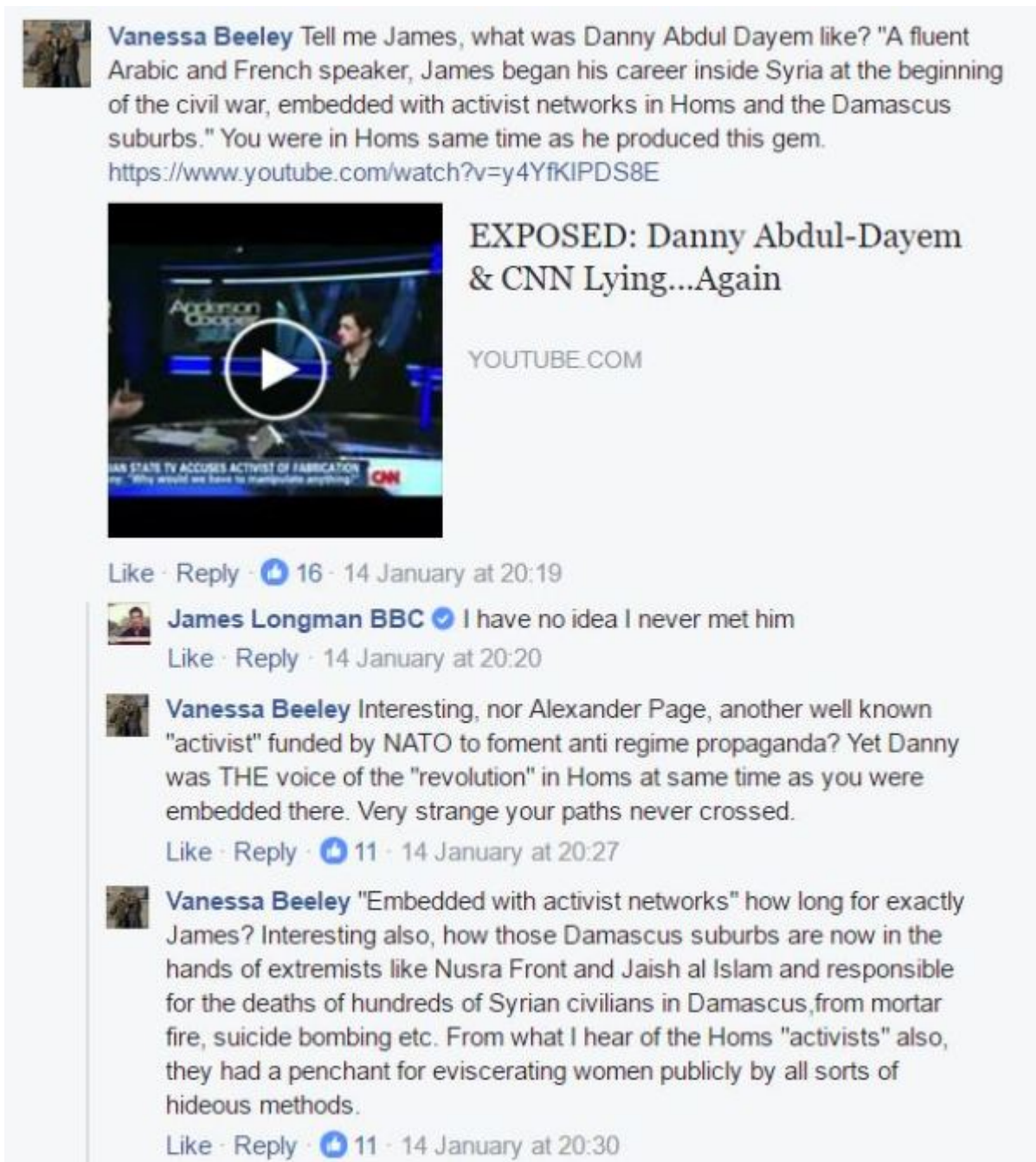
“The report documents that Syrian regime helicopters dropped 12,958 barrel bombs in 2016. Most of these barrel bombs were dropped in Damascus suburbs governorate, followed by Aleppo and then Hama, Idlib, Daraa, and Homs. Furthermore, November 2016 saw the most of these barrel bombs with 1946 dropped followed by June, and then January and August.”

In order to achieve this, the Syrian Airforce would have to fly 19 helicopter missions per day every day for the whole year. That is with limited airports available to them, the effect of sanctions, resulting in fuel shortages, and taking into consideration daylight hours and distances to and from alleged targets. Not to mention, downtime, maintenance etc.

Also, if there had been 19 helicopter flights per day over this time period, is it not strange that we dont see footage of these helicopters other than the oft [recycled images](#) & video that are used to depict these attacks? The NATO state funded, Turkish based and trained “citizen journalists” cameramen and women, “activists” have the equipment to record such flights, surely?

In this video which is a 9 minute alleged compilation of barrel bomb attacks, we actually see what looks suspiciously like reused shots of barrel bombs, or rudimentary finned Mortar-type bombs, being dropped by helicopters. The majority of the footage is actually of airforce, air to ground missile attacks on various terrorist and extremist held positions in Syria. There is the clear sound of Combat jets prior to the bombing.

[James Longman](#) of the BBC, embedded with such “activists & citizen journalists” in Homs & Damascus in 2011, during the early days of the NATO state-fomented armed uprising against the Syrian state, told the [Frontline Club](#) that they had *impressive* technological/media capabilities. So why is there not better coverage of the 19 helicopter missions *per day*?



Vanessa Beeley Tell me James, what was Danny Abdul Dayem like? "A fluent Arabic and French speaker, James began his career inside Syria at the beginning of the civil war, embedded with activist networks in Homs and the Damascus suburbs." You were in Homs same time as he produced this gem.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y4YfKIPDS8E>

EXPOSED: Danny Abdul-Dayem & CNN Lying...Again
YOUTUBE.COM

Like · Reply · 16 · 14 January at 20:19

James Longman BBC I have no idea I never met him
Like · Reply · 14 January at 20:20

Vanessa Beeley Interesting, nor Alexander Page, another well known "activist" funded by NATO to foment anti regime propaganda? Yet Danny was THE voice of the "revolution" in Homs at same time as you were embedded there. Very strange your paths never crossed.
Like · Reply · 11 · 14 January at 20:27

Vanessa Beeley "Embedded with activist networks" how long for exactly James? Interesting also, how those Damascus suburbs are now in the hands of extremists like Nusra Front and Jaish al Islam and responsible for the deaths of hundreds of Syrian civilians in Damascus, from mortar fire, suicide bombing etc. From what I hear of the Homs "activists" also, they had a penchant for eviscerating women publicly by all sorts of hideous methods.
Like · Reply · 11 · 14 January at 20:30

Taken from James Longman’s Facebook post. I was blocked for 7 days on Facebook for violating “community standards” when I reposted a screenshot of our debate and Longman has now blocked me on Twitter.

The Nusra Front-led factions, with whom these so called “activists” and “citizen journalists” are embedded, certainly have the “equipment” to shoot helicopters down..as with the [Russian helicopter flying in humanitarian aid in August 2016](#).

The Numbers Game

In their report, SNHR claim:

“According to the report, the barrel bombs that were dropped by Syrian regime warplanes in 2016 resulted in the killing of 653 civilians including 166 children and 86 women.”

How reliable these figures are, is hard to analyse. The majority of the statistics reported by these weaponized NGOs come from the SOHR (Syrian Observatory for Human Rights) that is notorious for mingling “civilian” deaths with those of the NATO-state funded and armed terrorist & extremist factions. The SOHR is in reality, [Rami Abdulrahman](#), an EU funded one-man-band operating out of Coventry in the UK and communicating with “activists” via Skype.

“Abdulrahman of the SOHR [admitted](#) in 2012: “I have thousands of rebels in the civilian list. I put all the non-defectors in the civilian list...It isn’t easy to count rebels because nobody on the ground says ‘this is a rebel.’ Everybody hides it.” In another [interview](#) he confirmed the view that “most of Syria’s dead were combatants, not civilians.” ~ [The Death Toll in Syria, What do the Numbers Really Say?](#)

According to a former US diplomat who had served in Syria:

“I have serious problems with all the talk about military intervention in Syria. Everyone, especially the media, seems to be relying solely on anti-regime activists for their information. How do we know 260 people were killed by the regime in Homs yesterday? That number seems based solely on claims by anti-regime figures and I seriously doubt its accuracy.” ~ [Veteran US Diplomat Questions Syria Storyline by Sharmine Narwani](#).

**Government forces
dropped
not less than
35956
barrel bombs**
since March 2011 and
up till March 2016
**which killed
14652
civilians**
including 2896 children
and 2672 women

According to SNHR documentation

THE CONSEQUENCES OF
51
YEARS
خمس سنوات

Syrian Network For Human Rights
الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

snhr snhr sn4hr sn4hr snhr.snhr www.sn4hr.org info@sn4hr.org

According to their previous meme, for the period between March 2011 and March 2016, over 35, 956 barrel bombs have been dropped by the Syrian airforce, killing 14, 652 civilians. Now this is a fascinating piece of analysis by SNHR, as even, NATO intervention sympathiser, Elliot Higgins aka Brown Moses of [Bellingcat](#) states that the first recorded barrel bomb attack in Syria, was in August 2012. A fact, corroborated by Wikipedia, [in their list of barrel bomb attacks](#).

So if we rely upon Soros-allied SNHR, the barrel bomb attacks started 17 months before they were first recorded. Impressive. This immediately skews the numbers they are presenting.

In "[The Barrel Bomb Conundrum](#)", Craig Murray states, (emphasis added):

"It is a fascinating example of a propaganda meme. Barrel bombs are being used by Syrian government forces, though on a pretty small scale. They are an improvised weapon made by packing conventional explosive into a beer barrel. They are simply an amateur version of a conventional weapon, and they are far less "effective" - meaning devastating - than the professionally made munitions the UK and US are dropping on Syria, or supplying to the Saudis to kill tens of thousands of civilians in Yemen, or to Israel to drop on children in Gaza."

East Aleppo Liberation Opens Pandora's Box?

If an earthquake has occurred anywhere in Syria, it is the tectonic plates of corporate media obscurantism and deceit being torn assunder by the truth that has emerged from the liberated districts of East Aleppo. [Civilians escaping their almost five year ordeal](#) of life under Nusra Front-led occupation and brutal imprisonment, exposed the truth behind the corporate media pre-fabricated narratives that had in effect prolonged the suffering of these people, while amplifying the voices of their captors, described euphemistically as "rebels" by the majority of the predatory NATO-aligned "mockingbird" media and NGOs



Nusra Front Hell Cannon, captured in Sheikh Saeed, East Aleppo. 12/12/2016. (Photo: Vanessa Beeley)



Nusra Front Hell Cannon, captured in Sukare, East Aleppo. 24/12/2016. (Photo: Vanessa Beeley)

No mention is made by this media-propaganda juggernaut of the 11,000 recorded and

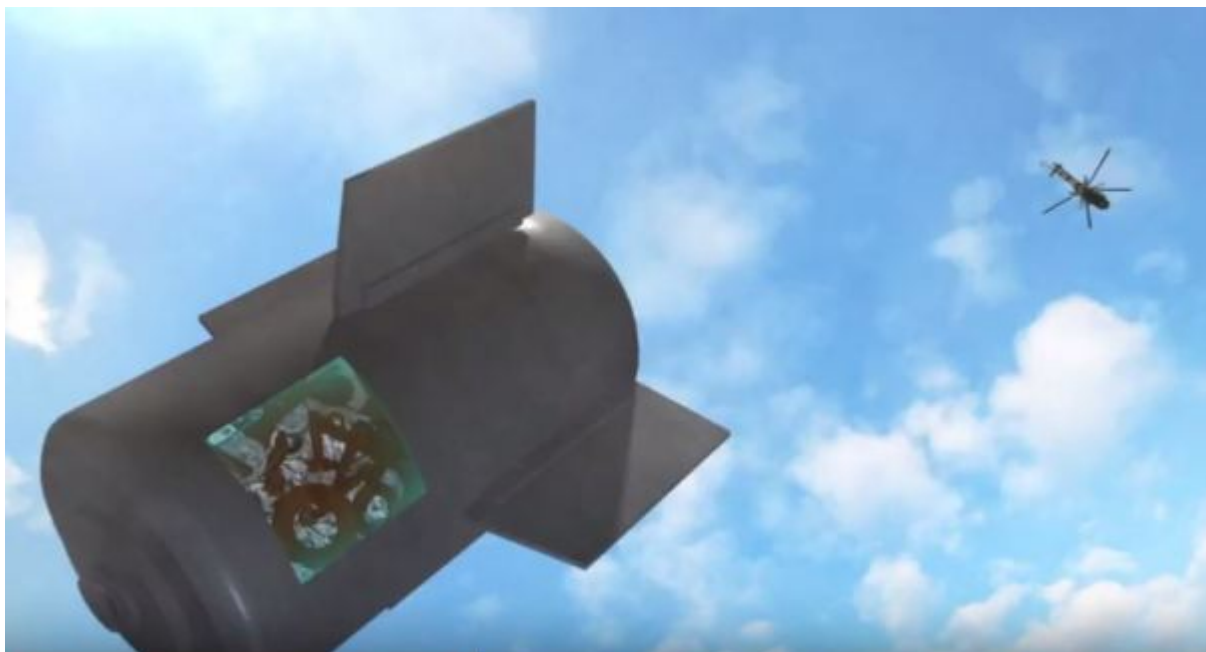
documented dead civilians, among them thousands of children, murdered by the “hell cannon” mortar fire, sniper fire and explosive bullets from Nusra Front-led terrorists in East Aleppo fired deep into Syrian state protected West Aleppo. These figures were given to me by Head of Forensics in Aleppo, Dr Zahar Hajjo and confirmed by [Eva Bartlett](#) during her debate with Dilly Hussain on RT.

Nor is there any mention of the recent discoveries of what look suspiciously like barrel bombs, previously stored by Nusra Front and assorted extremist factions in ammunition depots in the liberated areas of East Aleppo:

There has also been a recent discovery of a vast quantity of gas canisters in the liberated Kalaseh district of East Aleppo.



Lets have a look at the technical specification of the barrel bomb. According to an [animated depiction](#) of the composition of the barrel bomb, they are filled with “twisted shards of metal shrapnel. When detonated the metal explodes in every direction causing tremendous damage to the immediate area”.



Barrel bomb as depicted in video. Screenshot.

Compare this to a description of the Nusra Front Hell Cannon mortars, from an [Aleppo resident](#):

“The terrorists are using mortars, explosive bullets, cooking-gas cylinders bombs and water-warming long cylinders bombs, filled up with explosives and shrapnel and nails, in what they call “Hell Cannon”. (google these weapons or see their YouTube clips. The cooking-gas cylinder is made of steel, and it weighs around 25 kg. Imagine it thrown by a canon to hit civilians? And imagine knowing that it’s full with explosives?... Yet, the media is busy with the legendary weapon of “barrel bombs”! They came to spread “freedom” among Syrians! How dare they say that Syrian army shouldn’t fight them back?”

Can you tell them apart?

Many civilians that I interviewed as they were streaming out of the liberated areas of East Aleppo told me that the Nusra Front-led terrorist and militant gangs had often attacked civilian homes, schools and hospitals in the same areas and then blamed it on the Syrian national army.

Is it so far fetched to suggest that the barrel bomb myth is just that, a myth propagated by those who are claiming to be under attack while attacking civilians in the areas occupied or besieged by these terrorist factions?

Here is one such testimony from one of the first civilians I spoke to, on the 10th December 2016, in Hanano which had been fully liberated two days previously. Watch:

Conclusion

It is surely time to put the barrel bomb to bed? It is now an outdated and debunked, mass produced myth. 50 earthquakes per day of an 8.0 magnitude would have obliterated the entire region. Enough of these theatrics designed to obfuscate the very real bloodshed that is being witnessed daily in Syria as a result of the dirty war being waged against it by the US neocons and war hawks, hell-bent on regime change and the weakening of the sovereign nation to please their Israeli allies in the region.

I leave you with a timeless classic, “*The Barrel Bomb Song*” featuring Ken Roth, a fitting epitaph for one of the most flagrant media fabrications and distortions of the almost six year war of aggression against Syria led by a multitude of NATO & Gulf state funded and armed atrocity committing extremists.

The original source of this article is [21st Century Wire](#)
Copyright © [Vanessa Beeley](#), [21st Century Wire](#), 2017

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Vanessa Beeley](#)

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca
www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca